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From:
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2009 9:00 AM
To:
Subject: RESTORE MOCA'S BUDGET CUTS FOR ARTS

To: Honolulu City Council Members
From: Walt Dulaney, Alliance for Drama Education
Hearing: May 18, 2009
RE: RESTORE MOCA'S BUDGET CUTS FOR ARTS

May I first applaud the council's prudence in seeking to bring the city and county budget in sync with anticipated revenues. Mahalo.

But I must then respectfully state my conviction that having the modest sum allotted the mayor's office of culture affairs is unwise. I speak as producer of a student troupe of the actor-playwrights whose original shows help 5,000 Kalihi peers each semester – recognize the dangers and opportunities that surround them.

MOCA support has allowed T-Shirt Theatre to spotlight troubling issues and to raise aspiration in a community branded "at risk". For 30 years the Alliance for Drama Education has sought to even the odds for youngsters raised in the challenging, polyglot community. But the authentic spark for T-Shirt Theatre is recognition of the talent and wit of Kalihi kids.

MOCA support attracts collaborative funding. It is a prime endorsement born of careful scrutiny and in-depth awareness of community needs. Please investigate every avenue to restore full funding for culture and the arts support.

Thank you for weighing this testimony.

MISC. COM. 1002

5/18/2009

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